UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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3 UNIQUE COINS

The above three unique coins will cross the auction block at Heritage in January 2023. What makes these coins special is that they were struck as regular issue coins of current series' at that time. Other US unique coins exist but are generally experimental issues or issues never intended for circulation.

The Mint Master

January 2023

Volume 71 Issue 1

UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE —- January 2023

LaVar Burton

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I want to thank the Club Members for your trust in voting me as your Club President for the years 2023 and 2024. I will need all your help to make the UNS Club a big success. I am looking forward to working with all the new Board members.

I want to thank those that put all the work in for the Christmas meeting we had and all their efforts throughout the year. The food and prizes were great. I hope everyone had a good time.

I hope you all had a great Christmas Holiday and are looking forward to the new year.

Happy New Year

LaVar Burton President

Contents & Agenda For January 10, 2023

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Meeting January 10, 2023 at 7PM

Meeting location is:

Columbus Center - 2530 South 500 East, Salt Lake City

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Morgan Dollar Mint Bag

Doug Nyholm

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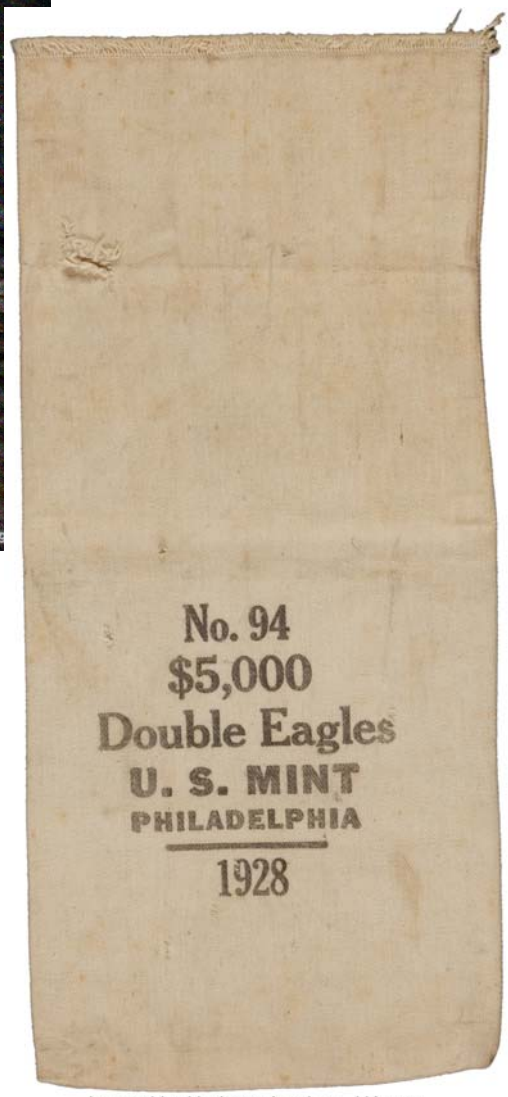
This Carson City mint bag once held 1000 Morgan silver dollars. A Heritage auction recently sold this bag at auction for $6,000 including the buyers premium. I was totally amazed that an empty bag which once held 1000 Morgan silver dollars could sell for 6 times its once held contents.

Shown here are several pitures of vintage silver dollar bags of which literally hundreds, if not thousands were stored in vaults. It is strange that more than a few have survived, or have they, and are they part of long time old collections still in hiding. Or, were the vast majority simply tossed like garbage like an old candy wrapper? In any event, I will keep looking and hoping to find that elusive treasure someday.



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ABOVE ARE BAGS AND BOXES OF CURRENCY AND SILVER DOLLARS. WHERE DID ALL THE BAGS GO?

IN SEARCHING FOR THESE PICTURES I CAME ACROSS AN ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC MINT BAG WHICH ONCE HELD $5,000 (250)1928 DOUBLE EAGLES. WOW!

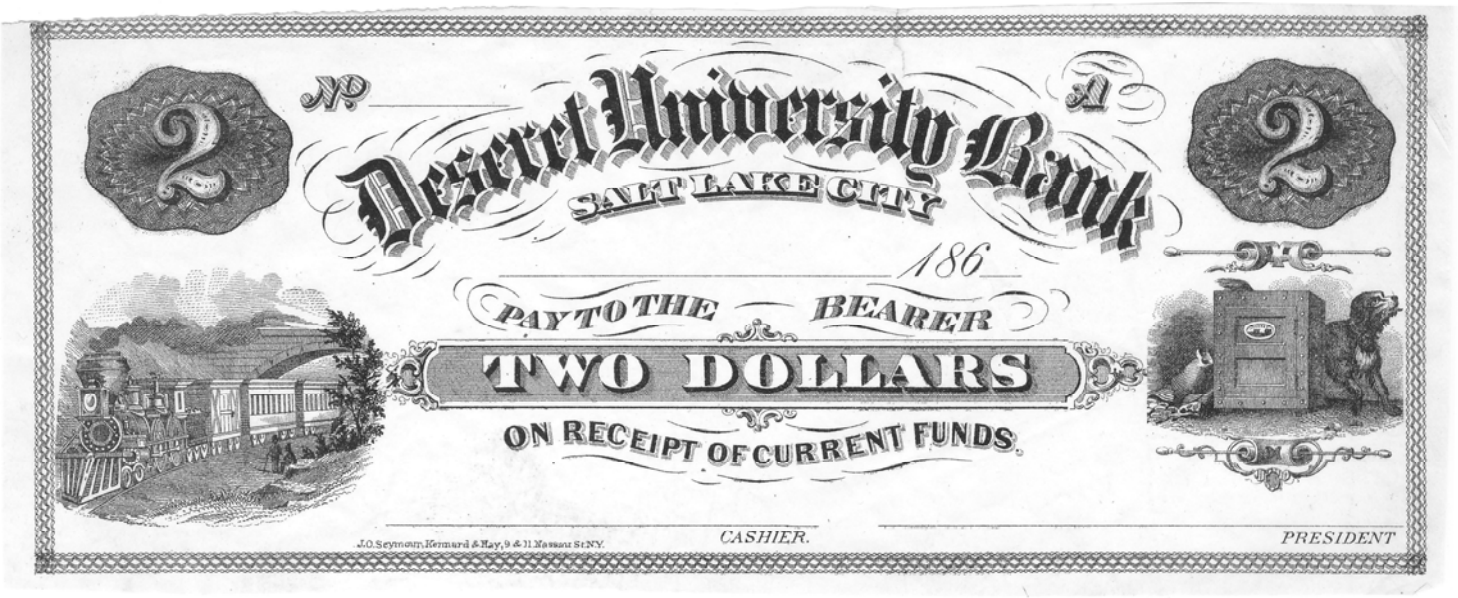
CHRISTMAS DINNER PICS

#

#

UTAH COLLEGE CURRENCY

Doug Nyholm

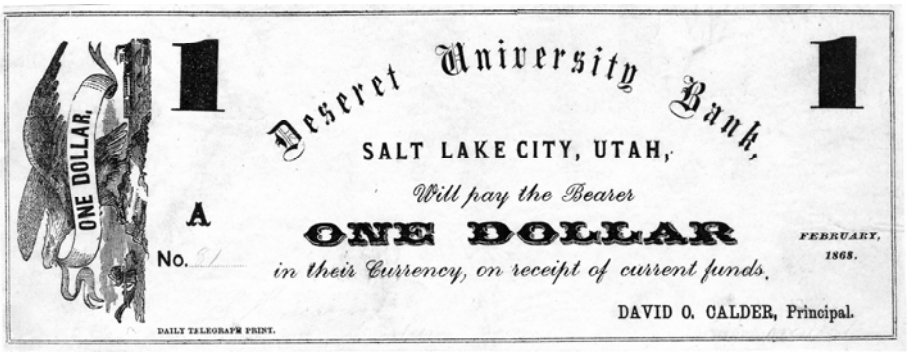


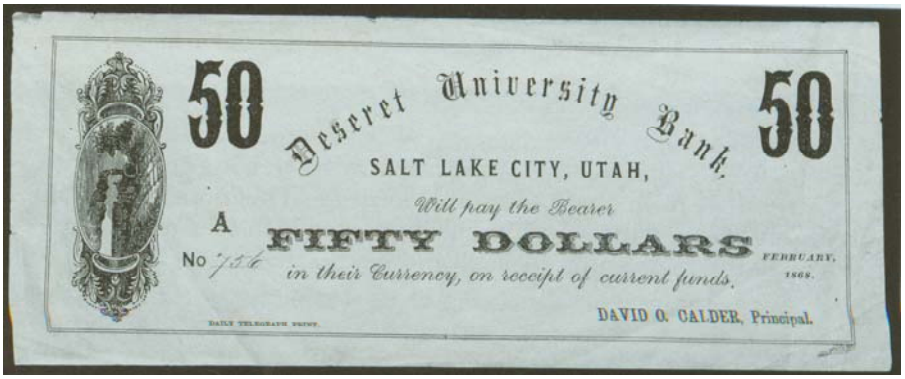
A rarely encounted item from Utah are university or college currency. College currency was actually extensively printed and used throughout the United States in virtually every state. The late Herb and Martha Schingoethe collected significant numbers of this currency and wrote a book on the subject in 1993 covering the subject extensively with 465 pages. The Schingoethe's traveled extensively collecting paper documents with literally a trunk labeled for every state which was used to store their purchases. Al Rust in his book also wrote regarding the Deseret University Bank currency and occasionally a piece of this Utah history will come to market. This currency is obviously no legal tender of any type but was used for training purposes at the college or university. Much of their use was to assist the training of bookkeepers an accountants is the mid to late 19th century. Other documents used were deeds, stamps, securities, stock and even coins. Interestingly one of the tasks for students was to see just how fast they could count currency. Remember, during this era, there was no such things as computers or counting machines and everything had to be done manually and accurately. Students were also trained in banking and cash drawer counting. Something that is no longer taught but probably should be. How many times have you made a purchase for say $2.05 handed the cashier $3.00 watched him enter it on the cash register and get the change ready then say, "Wait, I have a nickel" hand it to the clerk and watch him go com-

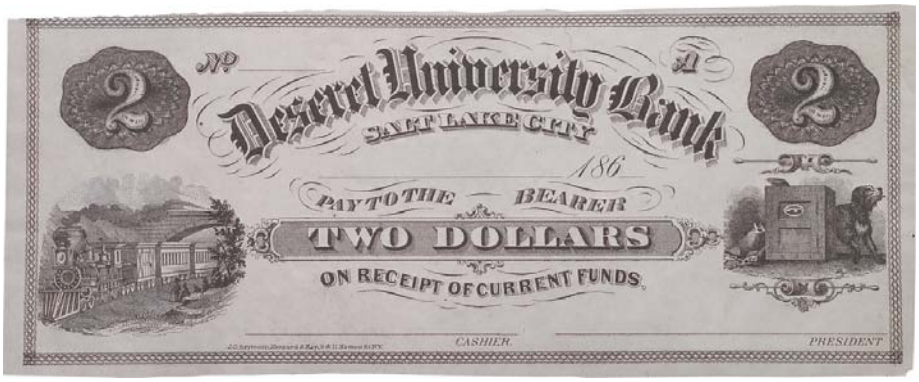
pletely go blank and not have any idea of what to do.

Shown on the previous page is an example of two different LDS Business College currency and an ornate $2 from the Deseret University Bank. These examples are very collectable and were issued in multiple denominations and different printing series.

David O. Calder was appointed as Chancellor November 27, 1867 with classes beginning the following year on October 12th. Classes were arranged so to simulate actual business which is the reason for the printing and use of this scrip. Actual banking transactions were accomplished with regular U.S. currency. There were three different types of Deseret University scrip used. The first was a plain unsigned 5¢ note followed by the second type which were quite plain. They were printed in the known denominations of $1, $10, and $50. Most likely other denominations were also printed but are presently unknown. This type had places for serial numbers when issued. Finally the third type, which were more intricate engraved notes were printed in the denominations of $1, $2, $5, $10, and $50 denominations. A $20 denomination recently surfaced. These notes additionally bore the signature of David O. Calder as President as well as a cashier's signature. Calder resigned in the winter of 1869 after which the Deseret University Bank ceased operations. The majority of the notes were burned accounting for a very small survival rate for these notes. All are printed in black ink on white paper.







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Recently I discovered several unknown Mormon currency items, at least to me. They are pictured below, the top item is one of the very early Presiding Bishop scrip with a value of $20. When I wrote my book 'Mormon Currency' in 2010 only five different types were known to me, a 50 cent, $1, $5, and $10 denomination and a pink colored $1 piece. This is the first $20 type I have seen and was not aware of its existence.

The other item pictured here is a rare Logan Storehouse note which is also a new denomination which I have not previously seen. Previously I was only aware of 5 cent and 25 cent notes. Most likely there is a 10 cent note which was printed as well as some higher denominations which hopefully may be still in hiding with not everything destroyed or lost to the ravages of time.

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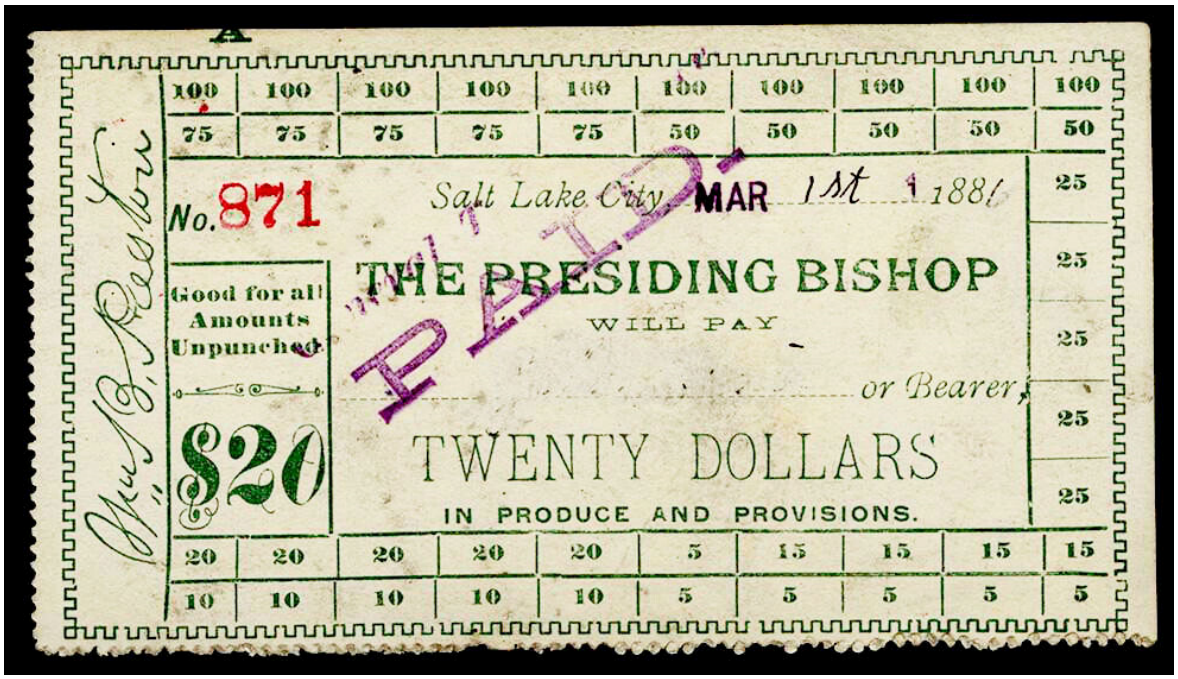
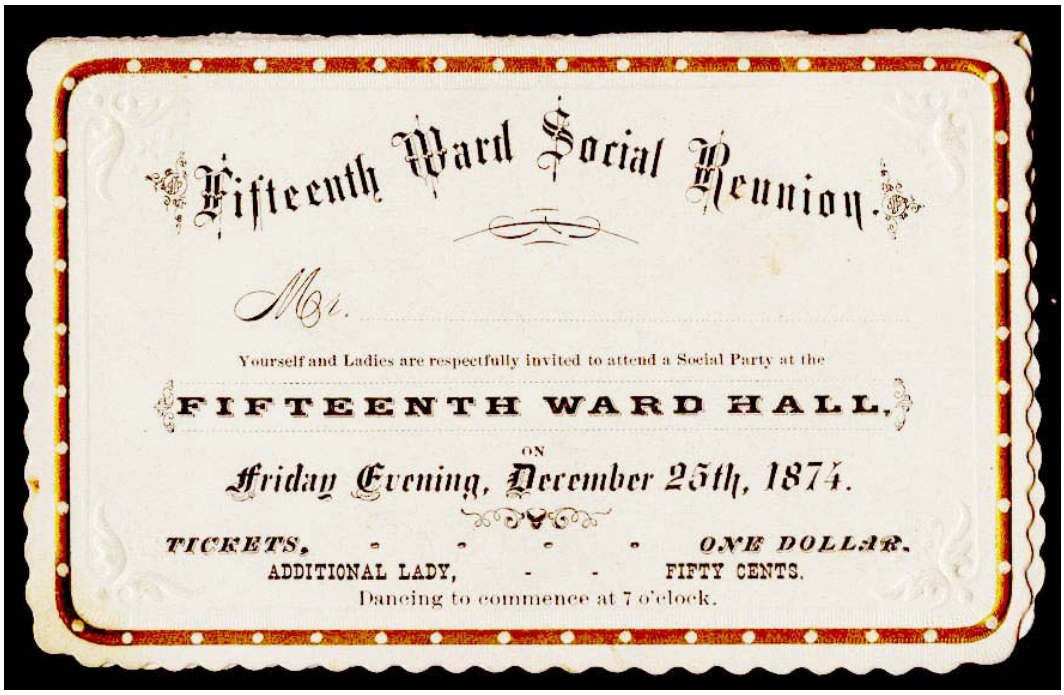




Fifteenth Ward Social Reunion.

Mr.

Yourself and Ladies are respectfully invited to attend a Social Party at the

FIFTEENTH WARD HALL,

ON

Friday Evening, December 25th, 1874.

TICKETS, - - - - ONE DOLLAR.

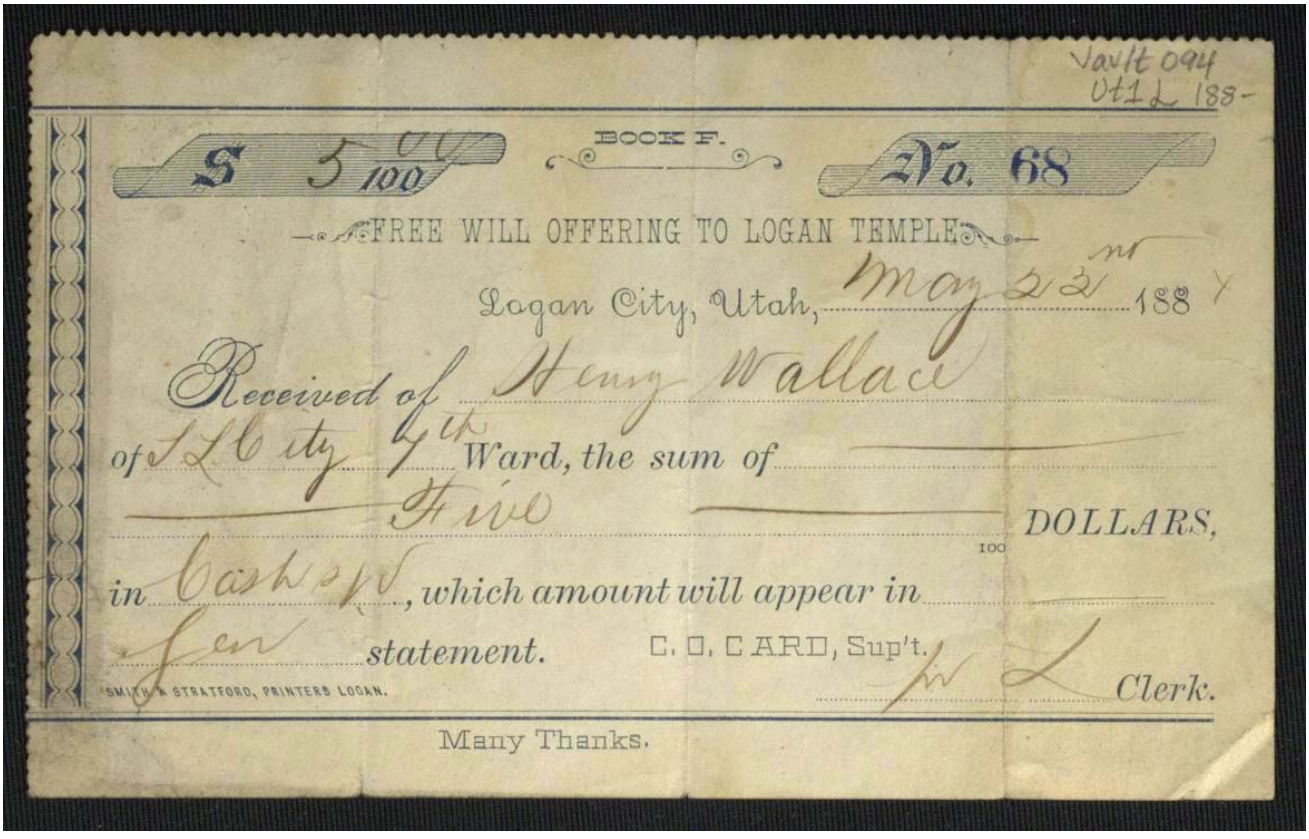
ADDITIONAL LADY, - - FIFTY CENTS.

Dancing to commence at 7 o'clock.

#

These two interesting holographic type Mormon documents also recently came to my attention. The above note from Christmas 1874 is interesting that it makes reference to the price of 50 cents for additional lady's which are brought to the event. Most likely due to the practice of polygamy at the time.

Below is an interesting holographic note shown as a patron offering a $5 donation given to the Logan Temple in 1887.



Vault 094
Ut1 2 188-

$ 5 00/100 BOOK F. No. 68

FREE WILL OFFERING TO LOGAN TEMPLE.

Logan City, Utah, May 22nd 188 7

Received of Henry Wallace

of 2 City 4th Ward, the sum of

Five 00/100 DOLLARS,

in Cash, which amount will appear in

Jen statement. C. O. CARD, Sup't.

SMITH & STRATFORD, PRINTERS LOGAN. per L Clerk.

Many Thanks.

32nd Annual

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From the Prestwick Collection, Part II

THE UNIQUE 1873-CC NO ARROWS DIME

The unique 1873-CC No Arrows dime from the Prestwick Collection is the only survivor from a small mintage of 12,400 pieces that was struck at the famous Carson City Mint early in 1873. Congress adjusted the weight of all United States subsidiary silver coins partway through the year in 1873, due to the falling price of silver. The Mint placed Arrows at the date of the new dimes to indicate the weight change. Since the dimes struck earlier in the year were now considered underweight, the Carson City Mint melted all the 1873 No Arrows dimes that were still on hand (virtually the entire mintage) for recoinage. Mint records indicate five of the old tenor No Arrows dimes were sent to the Assay Commission for testing before the remainder were melted. Numismatists believe the Prestwick example was one of those pieces, miraculously preserved for posterity by a member of the Assay Commission.

Its unique status makes the 1873-CC No Arrows dime much more elusive than some more famous numismatic rarities, like the 1804 dollar (15 examples known), the 1894-S Barber dime (nine pieces extant), or the 1913 Liberty nickel (five specimens traced). The 1873-CC No Arrows dime is clearly in a class of its own and is prized by collectors of many different collecting disciplines. Carson City specialist Rusty Goe calls it the "King of Carson City Coins." This coin has been a highlight of many famous collections over the years, and was the last piece acquired by prominent numismatist Louis E. Eliasberg, the only man to compile a complete collection of United States federal coins. It was last publicly offered in 2012, when it realized a remarkable price of $1.8 million. Graded MS65 by PCGS, we expect intense competition from series specialists and Registry Set enthusiasts alike when this coin crosses the auction block in Heritage Auctions' FUN Signature® event.

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UNIQUE 1870-S HALF DIME

Reprinted from Heritage Auction Listing

1870-S Seated Liberty Half Dime, MS64
The Fabled Only Known Example
A Treasure of Numismatic Mystery and Intrigue

1870-S H10C MS64 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Simpson-Bender. "It is truly remarkable that such a coin would go unrecorded in numismatic circles for 108 years ..." -- *The Gobrecht Journal,* November 1978

The 87th Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association, held in Houston, Texas, in August 1978, was small in the context of period ANA shows, though it would go down in numismatic history for the sake of a tiny silver coin there unveiled to collectors. The existence of an 1870-S half dime was the talk of the convention. Immediately following the show, it made waves throughout major numismatic publications. The September 9th, 1978 issue of *Numismatic News* called the mintmarked 1870 half dime: "A super U.S. rarity-heretofore unknown," and the November publication of *The Gobrecht Journal* heralded its reveal: "For the Seated collector the most significant event of the recent ANA Convention."

Prominent Chicago-area dealer Ed Milas of RARCOA displayed the discovery coin at his firm's table on the bourse floor. Among the many individuals who examined it were Kam Ahwash and Walter Breen, each of whom declared it genuine. However, their findings were merely public affirmation of authenticity that had already been confirmed. And therein lies a story ...

In researching the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the 1870-S half dime, this cataloger had the great pleasure of personally speaking with Mr. Jim Simek, who worked for Milas at the time the coin came to RARCOA, several months prior to its display at the ANA convention. Simek's account of the events surrounding the rarity's discovery and authentication is a story best told and preserved in his own words. Jim writes:

"In early 1978, a coin dealer from a southwestern suburb of Chicago brought this coin into Rare Coin Company of America (RARCOA) where I was employed at the time. He had purchased the coin in his store, but the exact circumstances of its provenance are lost to time. Ed Milas, the owner of RARCOA, came to my desk in the back office with the coin on a small black velvet pad. He placed it in front of me and said, 'What do you think of this piece?' I picked it up, looked at the obverse, and said something to the effect of, 'It's an 1870 half dime -- so what.' Then he said, 'Turn it over,' which I did, and my jaw literally dropped! I said, 'Is this real?' to which he replied, 'It's your job to find out.' Mr. Milas was not willing to purchase the coin without first having its authenticity verified.

"Dennis Forgue, Vice President of RARCOA, and I weighed and measured the coin, performed a specific gravity test -- all of which were well within tolerances -- and examined it closely under a stereo microscope. We talked about the very existence of this piece since there were none listed in the Mint Director's *Report.* There were no 1870-S silver dollars or $3 gold pieces in the report either, yet they exist. We speculated it may have been a trial or transitional piece that might have been prepared when the mintmark was relocated from below the bow in 1869 to above the bow in 1871, but it was just a guess. Why else would it exist? It appeared to be genuine, but we needed more definitive proof.

"Mr. Forgue suggested that I call Virgil Hancock, a member of the Board of Governors and immediate past president of the American Numismatic Association as well as a founder of the ANA Certification Service. I described to him what needed to be authenticated, and he said that the coin would have to be examined under a scanning electron microscope, something ANACS did not have access to. He suggested that I call Charles Hoskins, director of the International

Numismatic Society Authentication Bureau in Washington, DC, who might be able to help.

"I called Mr. Hoskins and explained the situation to him. He was very thrilled about it, and said that he had access to the use of a scanning electron microscope at, I believe it was, George Washington University Medical Center. We made an appointment to meet in Washington. The day I left, I placed the coin in a 2x2 plastic 'flip,' put that into a small manila coin envelope, and put it into my pocket so as not to be conspicuous. After all, who would guess what I was carrying? I must admit, though, that I checked every so often to make sure that it was still safely there!

"When I arrived at his office, we exchanged pleasantries and he examined the coin. I could tell that his excitement level was growing and he told me that he thought the piece certainly appeared genuine. We walked to the Medical Center and were met by the technician who would be performing the examination. He asked me what parts of the coin needed to be scanned, and I told him the date, mintmark, and edge. He explained that the piece would be placed on a pedestal within the vacuum chamber and would be held in place with a small amount of, I believe it was, beeswax. When he saw the concerned look on my face, he assured me that the material was totally inert and would not leave any residue whatsoever. He then said that he would take the coin, perform the exam, and be out shortly -- the SEM was in a very small and cramped room. I told him that would not happen since I could not let the piece out of my sight. He agreed to that and said he understood. He also stated that he would be able to perform a non-destructive metallurgical
analysis in the machine, necessary in determining if there was a presence of lead, tin, etc. which would indicate soldering of any design element.

"The three of us entered the room and I placed the coin on the pedestal heads-up. As an image came up on a small black-and-white television screen, I could immediately see that the metal flow in the date was obvious. It was just how it should be. I was amazed at what could be revealed under that high power of magnification. We continued the examination of the mint mark and edge, each time repositioning the coin on the pedestal, and the results were the same. There was no doubt that this coin was as-made and nothing had been added or 'sandwiched.' The coin was definitely genuine. The technician also made black-and-white Polaroid images that I could bring back with me and printed out the metallurgical analysis which served as further confirmation. The composition was approximately 90% silver and 10% copper with some almost undetectable trace elements that he said were likely due to minor surface contamination.

"We thanked him, and returned to Mr. Hoskins' office where the coin was placed in his vault for an overnight stay. I phoned Mr. Milas to give him the good news and had no doubt that he was quite pleased with the outcome. The two of us went to dinner and discussed this amazing new discovery. We could hardly contain our excitement! I returned to my hotel and the next morning met Mr. Hoskins for breakfast. We then went to his office where I retrieved the coin and photographs that had been prepared. I thanked him profusely, wrote a check for his services, put the coin into my pocket again and headed to Washington National Airport for my flight home."

The events Jim describes took place in the early spring of 1978. A certificate of authenticity Hoskins provided was in the form of a letter, dated April 19, detailing metallurgical and microscopic findings. Although that letter no longer accompanies the coin, a scan of it in Bowers and Merena's September 1985 Public Auction Sale preserves its contents, which are here transcribed:

"Dear Mr. Milas,

"On April 10, 1978 Mr. Jim Simek of your firm brought to the International Numismatic Society a silver coin purported to be a U.S. half dime produced in 1870 in the San Francisco Mint. We understood at

that time that mint records do not indicate that half dimes were struck in San Francisco in that year, and that until this specimen was discovered no such half dimes were known to exist.

"The dry weight of the coin was determined to be 1.26797 grams on a Mettler analytical balance. We arrived at a specific gravity determination of slightly less than 10.4. The obverse and reverse fields were observed to have a distinctly prooflike quality, and a wire rim extends part way around the coin. 107 reeds were counted on the coin's edge.

"Microscopic examination left the INS authentication staff with no doubt that the basic coin was a genuine product of the U.S. Mint. Further, no evidence of alteration of either the date or the mintmark could be discerned, even at 70x magnification.

"Due to the rarity of the coin, scanning electron microscopic examination of the date, mintmark and other areas was undertaken to establish beyond any reasonable doubt that no alterations had been made on the coin. This study was performed at magnifications ranging from 80x to 2,000x. Five Polaroid microphotos were made and given to Mr. Simek for delivery to RARCOA.

"Further, to establish that no solder materials were present at the base of the mintmark, that area was scanned for tin, lead, cadmium and zinc. None of these metals was found.

"On the basis of the forgoing testing, the INS Authentication Bureau has concluded that this U.S. 1870-S half dime is both genuine and unaltered. We hold no reservations about this conclusion.

"Sincerely yours,
Charles R. Hoskins"

The Orland Park Coin Shop Story

The identity of the person who originally brought the 1870-S half dime to Ed Milas at RARCOA has been a matter of much conflicting thought and theory for many years in numismatic circles, with articles having named two different Chicago-area dealers as the source of the find. One of the dealers named was Ron Berhans, who had many business interactions with Milas and Forgue; however, Mr. Simek recently spoke with Berhans who stated that he was not the person who discovered the coin.

The other Chicago-area dealer traditionally associated with the coin's discovery was Rich Storm, who opened Orland Coins & Stamps in April 1977, in the Orland Square Shopping Center in Orland Park, Illinois. The source of Mr. Storm's supposed association with the discovery was the June 1998 issue of *The Numismatist,* in an article titled "LaGrange and the Cornerstone Coins," by William A. Burd, president of Chicago Coin Company. In a segment of that article, Burd wrote an account of the 1870-S half dime's discovery:

"An 1870-S half dime went undiscovered until 1978, when it was purchased by Phyllis Storm of Orland Coin and Stamp Shop in Orland Park, Illinois. According to Storm, a man walked into the shop with a small box of coins. She paid him a fair price for the lot, believing the half dime was a common type coin. When she and her husband, Rich, could not find a listing for an 1870-S half dime, they consulted Ed Milas of RARCOA. The coin was determined to be genuine, and Milas purchased it from the Storms."

A recent conversation with Mr. Burd confirms that the story as described in *The Numismatist* was told him by Rich Storm directly, and that Storm had not provided any further details of the discovery at the time Burd researched his article.

While the finer details of the events surrounding the 1870-S half dime's discovery -- as well as the identity of the person who brought the coin into the Orland Park shop -- are indeed likely lost to time, there

can now be little doubt as to the validity of the story of the coin's discovery. Still remaining, however, are questions concerning the coin's creation, some 108 years before.

Coinage for the Cornerstone in 1870

The die pair that struck the 1870-S half dime was among the six obverse/reverse half dime die sets shipped to San Francisco Mint Superintendent O.H. La Grange on December 15, 1869. The die order reflects an expectation at the time that half dimes would be coined the following year as normal. However, that coinage never occurred ... at least, not for commercial purposes. The half dime was one of four denominations that were not put into regular production in 1870 at the West Coast branch mint, despite the Chief Coiner having the working dies for those denominations available.

Mint records, including the *Mint Director's Annual Report* and Assay Commission shipments, are silent on the coinage of 1870-S half dimes. In fact, until a revelation published by Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly in the April 12, 2004 issue of *Coin World,* the only known contemporary record of possible half dime coinage in 1870 was the May 26, 1870 *Daily Alta California* account of the Masonic ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone for the new San Francisco Mint building. Following a detailed account of a large Masonic procession and various ceremonial formalities, an inventory was listed stating the contents of a time capsule casket that was sealed inside the cornerstone. That inventory included, "One of each denomination of the several coins of the United States of America, all struck off at the San Francisco Branch Mint in the year 1870."

For much of numismatic history thereafter speculation occurred as to whether this statement referenced only coins struck for regular commerce in 1870 at San Francisco, or in fact examples of each denomination *ordinarily produced* by that branch mint, even if not yet in production at the time of the cornerstone ceremony. The revelation in Oliver and Kelly's 2004 *Coin World* article answered the question:

"Within Record Group 104, located at the National Archives and Records Administration in San Bruno, Calif., resides a ledger titled 'Registry of Warrants Issued for Ordinary Expenses, 1865-1873.' On Page 90, under the heading 'Register of Warrants During Second Quarter 1870' is noted an expense, of the Coining Department, for $49.60. In small handwritten text is the explanation for that figure, 'Coins furnished for cornerstone New Br. [Branch] Mint.' Next to this explanation is listed the number of the warrant, 738, and the clerk's name, W.F. Tracy, who was responsible for the transaction."

The ledger page, signed by Superintendent O.H. La Grange, prompted Oliver and Kelly to search a separate file with the heading "William F. Tracy," where they discovered the original warrant to which the ledger referred. The warrant, signed by Coiner J.B. Harmstead, detailed an official order for the striking of coins for the cornerstone casket. The coins purchased included one example of every denomination produced by San Francisco, seven of which were already in commercial production at that facility:

1 double eagle
1 eagle
1 half eagle
1 quarter eagle
1 gold dollar
1 half dollar
1 dime

And four denominations not yet produced:

1 three dollar piece
1 silver dollar
1 quarter
1 half dime

These documents confirm an authorized, legitimate coinage of a half dime at the San Francisco Mint in 1870, as well as examples of the other rare or unknown 1870-S issues. However, if an 1870-S half dime was indeed placed within the San Francisco Mint cornerstone, the existence of the coin that was discovered in 1978 still presents a mystery.

Legitimate Existence of a Second Half Dime
Several numismatic scholars have presented hypotheses over the years to explain the existence of a second 1870-S half dime in addition to the piece believed to reside in the "Granite Lady" cornerstone. One of the most educated and plausible published thus far appeared in the July 2018 issue of *The Numismatist.* There, Oliver and Kelly presented two possible paths of ownership for the 1870-S half dime that turned up in Chicago in 1978, built off the idea that Joseph B. Harmstead, San Francisco Mint Chief Coiner at the time, was the person through whom the coin originally left the mint.

The first of these theories suggests that Harmstead struck the coin and gave it to his stepson Albert A. Hickox and Albert's wife-to-be, Metta Jane Foster, in honor of the birth of their son Edward, in 1870. After Albert's death in 1883, the coin could have remained with Metta until her passing sometime after 1920, in South Bend, Indiana, where she lived following her husband's death. Her estate would have been transferred to her son Edward. The theory makes sense from a logic viewpoint, and also places the half dime within 60 miles of the suburban Chicago coin shop where, several decades later, its discovery was first recorded. Whether Edward retained the coin until that time or sold it along with other estate items to a local collector is beyond the scope of the hypothesis.

Oliver and Kelly added:

"It also can be postulated that, as chief coiner, Harmstead knew the reverse of this 1870 half dime differed slightly from its predecessors. The 'S' mintmark had been moved to within the wreath instead of below it, where it was located in previous years. Because of this change, the dies were tested, and one sample strike was added to the cornerstone memorial box for the new mint. The second piece was struck for whatever reason Harmstead had in mind. Since no more 1870-S half dimes were produced that year, this coin might have remained in his possession (perhaps for novelty's sake) until his death in Portland, Oregon, in 1889."

After Harmstead's passing, his estate was bequeathed to his late wife's daughter Sarah and son-in-law Charles. Items mentioned in the estate did not include a half dime, although such a small coin, if not recognized as something of significant numismatic value, could have been omitted from the record. Also, as eventually occurred with the 1870-S three dollar piece, the half dime could have been sold to a collector.

However, an alternate hypothesis exists among several numismatists to possibly explain the coinage of a second 1870-S half dime. It was Mint policy in 1870 to strike for the Assay Commission certain additional examples of each denomination coined in a given month. When the 1870-S half dime -- as well as quarter, three dollar piece, and silver dollar -- were struck for the cornerstone casket, Harm-

stead would not have necessarily known that additional, regular coinage of those denominations would not again occur before the end of the month. Thus, the Chief Coiner could have treated the cornerstone coinage of these denominations as any other regular production and had additional examples of each struck and reserved for Assay Commission testing. With as small a mintage as the cornerstone warrant ordered, a single example of each of these four denominations would have been sufficient to meet potential assay requirements.

However, Assay Commission records indicate that no half dimes, quarters, silver dollars, or three dollar pieces were submitted for testing by the San Francisco Mint in 1870. If Harmstead did strike additional coins for that purpose, he did not ship them with the other assay coins produced in May. David McCarthy reasons:

"It is imaginable that they struck them based upon the assumption that they would have to send the coins to the Assay Commission eventually, then didn't have to send them, because no examples were ever officially released."

The only examples of the half dime, quarter, silver dollar, and three dollar piece in existence -- if struck as reported by the coinage warrant -- were buried deep within the foundation of the granite mint building (save for several silver dollars believed to have been given to Masonic leaders as presentation pieces). Did Harmstead revise his thinking and determined that assay duplicates of these four denominations did not need to be sent to Philadelphia? If so, could he have then justified purchasing one or more of the coins and presenting them as gifts to family members?

It is interesting to note that this theory opens the door to the possibility that the 1870-S half dime unveiled by RARCOA in 1978 was originally purchased from the San Francisco Mint by someone other than Harmstead, and that current efforts to trace its history after leaving the mint have been searching in the wrong place. This could explain the lack of any concrete connection of the half dime to the Chief Coiner.

Finally, while the idea of assay duplicates is no more provable at this time than other suggestions regarding the coinage of the "extra" 1870-S half dime, it would establish the coin as a legitimate, authorized issue, and not a clandestine striking made for personal gain or novelty. It is also worth noting that, in writing *Sentiments and Aspirations of a 19th Century Tradesman: A Biography of Joseph Breck Harmstead,* Oliver and Kelly found the Chief Coiner to be an honest man, of good character. The assay coin hypothesis discussed here maintains such a reputation.

Modern-Day History of Ownership

The post-discovery provenance of the 1870-S half dime is much better documented than that from the time of the coin's production. Ed Milas, after unveiling the rarity at the 1978 ANA convention, retained it for nearly two more years before offering it for sale. He then exhibited the coin at the 1980 Spring Convention of the Michigan State Numismatic Society, and on April 16, 1980, the first sale of the coin -- following its public unveiling -- occurred. In the November 1985 issue of *The Gobrecht Journal,* Q. David Bowers wrote:

"The selling price of $425,000 for the piece, as subsequently reported in *A Guide Book of United States Coins,* was said to have been derived in an unusual manner. What was the coin worth? The piece, a new discovery, has no record of prices realized at auction. The thought went through the minds of Ed Milas and Dennis Forgue, the owners of RARCOA, that some procedure must be established in determining a fair price. It was decided that when their firm [Bowers and Ruddy] auctioned the 1804 silver dollar from the Garrett Collection for The Johns Hopkins University, a reasonable figure for the 1870-S half dime would be $25,000 more than the price realized for the 1804 silver dollar. In a fantastic 'fight' among enthusiastic bidders on the auction floor, the 1804 silver dollar broke all past records and soared to

$400,000. As agreed beforehand, $425,000 became the transaction basis for the 1870-S half dime."

The buyer was dealer John Abbott, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Abbott held the coin for five years until September 1985, when he consigned it to auction with Bowers and Merena. The first public auction test of the coin saw it garner only $176,000. It reappeared one year later in Superior's session of Auction '86. That catalog noted, "The coin was acquired [after the 1985 auction] by two prominent East Coast dealers and it has since changed ownership."

The coin realized $253,000 in the Superior auction, and was then offered in a 2000 Goldberg sale, where it did not sell. The most recent auction appearance of the rarity was in Bowers and Merena's July 2004 offering of the Jim Gray Collection, where it realized $661,250, an auction record for any Seated Liberty half dime. Later, the coin went into the holdings of the anonymous "Law Collector," and was sold privately in 2009 by Legend for $1.4 million as part of a complete collection. The new owner was Bob R. Simpson, who held it until transferring that curatorship to Tom Bender, the current consignor.

The Current Offering

Only three United States coinage issues claim a survivorship of only one verified piece. The 1873-CC No Arrows dime and 1870-S three dollar gold piece have been known to numismatists for more than a century, but the 1870-S half dime's recent discovery makes this coin's rarity so much more tangible to modern generations of collectors. It is also, of the three unique rarities, surrounded by arguably the greatest amount of mystery. The lingering unknowns still veiling portions of the half dime's 108-year sleep in numismatic silence before it was discovered and unveiled to the public heightens its allure and intrigue, like a gripping novel missing its first several chapters. Yet, even if the true value and importance of this coin were not fully recognized until it turned up in a Chicago-area coin shop, it was clearly not randomly discovered in a junk box, as has been often misstated, but was rather intentionally preserved by someone, for some purpose.

The partial wire rim and prooflike fields noted by Charles Hoskins in 1978 are still prevalent. Yet, some of the traditional strike weakness associated with half dimes of this period is also present. The obverse shield near Liberty's hand is incompletely struck, as is the left portion of the reverse wreath. A few light marks are observed in the fields with a loupe but are hidden to the casual viewer by original sun-gold and stone-gray toning.

When it comes to a unique rarity that is among the most important individual coins in United States numismatics, grade and eye appeal are far from the most important considerations. However, the CAC endorsement on this piece attests to its worthiness of the MS64 grade. And the fact that it exists at all affirms its worthiness to stand among the most significant coins ever struck. It is our privilege to offer it here, in its first public appearance in more than 17 years.#

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THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION AND STORY ABOUT THE UNIQUE 1870-S HALF DIME IS REPRINTED IN ITS ENTIRETY FROM HERITAGE'S UPCOMING AUCTION OF THIS UNIQUE COIN. IT IS ONE OF ONLY THREE UNIQUE COINS IN THE STANDARD UNITED STATES COINAGE ISSUES KNOWN TODAY. IT IS A SIMPLY AN AMAZING COIN WITH AN ASTOUNDING STORY ABOUT THIS FABLED RARIETY WHICH WILL SOON CROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK IN 2023.

#

JANUARY PRIZES

ON TIME PRIZE : 1962 Proof Franklin Half

MEMBER PRIZE: Diocletian Ancient Coin

YOUTH PRIZE: Two State Quarter Sets

GENERAL PRIZES

1) 1954-D BU Lincoln Cent roll
2) AU Peace Dollar
3) XF Morgan Dollar
4) 2022 Silver Eagle
5) 1982 Washington Commemorative Proof Half
6) 1981 Proof Set
7) 1988 Prestige Set
8) 1971 Canadian Coin
9) 1935D $1 2 sequential Silver Certificates
10)1957B $1 5 sequential Silver Certificates
11) 1964 D Kennedy Half FS103 TDO
12) ATB Quarters S mint Uncirculated set

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BUY OF THE MONTH

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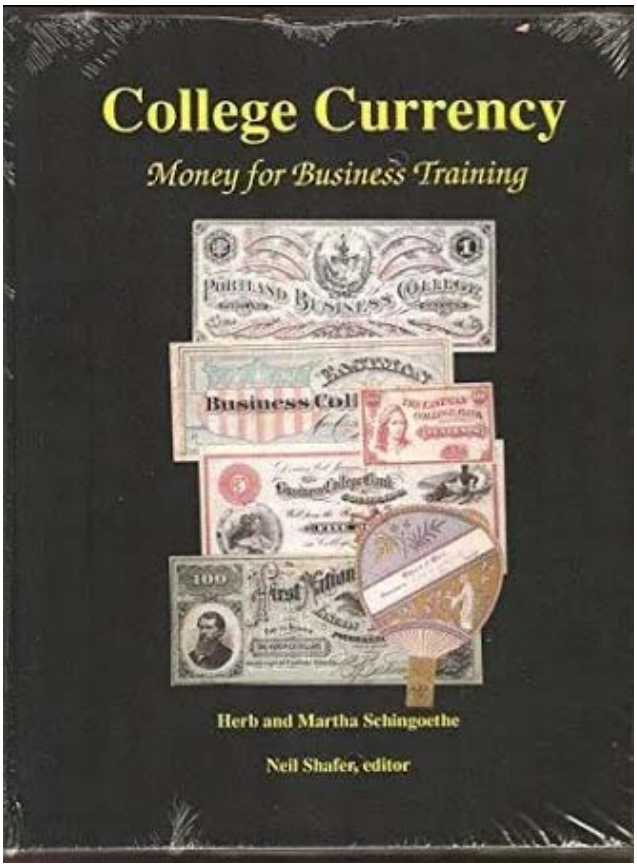
The buy-of-the-month will be AU/BU Mercury Dimes. These are very nice specimens and they will be sold for $3 each, maximum of 5 until the end of the meeting.

Thanks to our curator Darin Lee for these prizes.

BOOK REVIEW

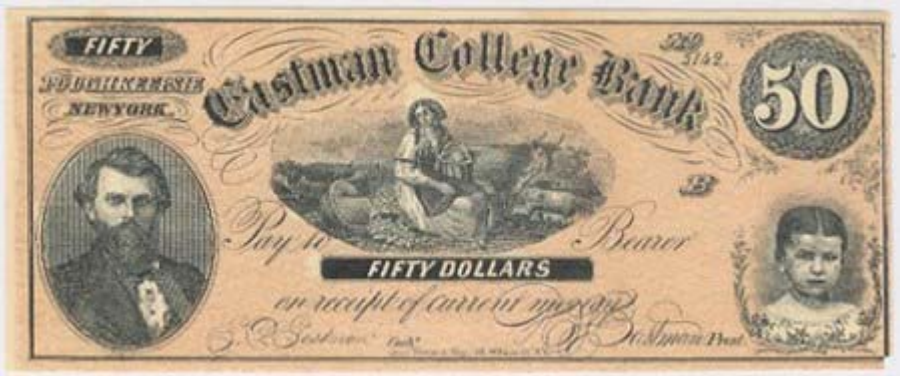
College Currency

Herb and Martha Schingoehe



For this month I have no new books to report on but due to my reference and article about Utah Deseret University Bank and college currency of Utah I thought I would mention Herb and Marth Shingoethe's book on the subject. This book was copyrighted in 1993 and obviously out of print but a quick check of the internet did show up a few copies available for as low at $25.

This book is likely the most complete work on the subject covering not only the United States but also Canada and Europe. It consists of 465 pages, hard bound and is mostly black and white with the exception of about 30 pages of color images in the front of the book. It also covers historical details of the currency an is and interesting book to have on your library shelves for a relatively low cost.



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ANNOUNCEMENT / REQUEST

Our club is looking for a secure location in which to store our trailer. The trailer contains equipment and material used at our local coin shows.

If anyone knows or has access to such a location either free of charge or for a reasonable fee please contact our President or a Board member.

The Money Quiz

THIS QUIZ IS TAKEN FROM ISSUE #56 OF THE RARE COIN REVIEW DATED SUMMER 1985

IS IS RELATED TO IDENTIFYING OVERDATES. EACH QUESTION HAS 1 INCORRECT OVERDATE.

1. Half Cent Overdates?

A) 1802 Over 0 **B) 1808 Over 7**

C) 1809 Over 6 **D) 1833 Over 2**

2. Large Cent Overdates?

A) 1795 Over 4 **B) 1798 Over 7**

C) 1799 Over 8 **D) 1823 Over 2**

3. Half Dime Overdates?

A) 1796 Over 5 **B) 1797 Over 6**

C) 1849 Over 8 **D) 1861 Over 0**

4. Half Dollar Overdates?

A) 1803 Over 2 **B) 1812 Over 1**

C) 1817 Over 4 **D) 1827 Over 6**

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

5. Silver Dollar Overdates?

A) 1899 Over 8 **B) 1802 Over 1**

C) 1803 Over 2 **D) 1880 8 over 7**

6. Gold Overdates?

A) 1824 Over 1 $2 1/2 **B) 1888 Over 7 $3**

C) 1825 Over 4 $5 **D) 1828 Over 7 $5**

7. Misc. American Overdates

A) 1787 over 1877 Connecticut Copper **B) 1806 Over 5 Quarter**

C) 1909 Over 8 $20 **D) 1893 Over 2 Columbian 50 Cent**

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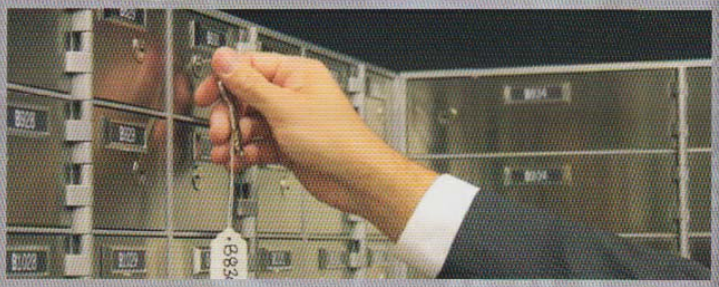

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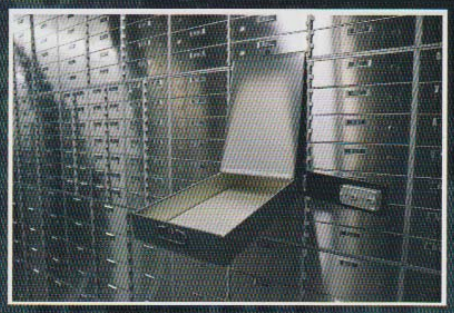

MEMBER PRICING

BOX SIZE	MONTH	YEAR
3"x 5" x 22"	$40.00	$300
3" X 10" x 22"	$50.00	$500
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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year

First of all I want to wish everyone a prosperous and Happy New Year. I am writing this on the first day of winter and shortest day of the year. From now on the days will be getting longer and before we know it Spring will be around the corner.

We have a new President, LaVar Burton and I wish him and the UNS also a prosperous and successful year. There is an additional announcement in this edition concerning our officer/board planning meeting, I hope everyone can attend to help plan the years activities. Please bring any new ideas you may have for our meeting and activities.

Secondly, I have also included the auction write up concerning the unique 1870-S Half Dime which will be sold shortly after you read this. Heritage and Stacks/Bowers auction companies continue to be a wonderful source of information about rare and not so rare coins which sometimes cannot be found so impressively written elsewhere. The age old adage of read the book before you purchase the coin has never been so true. Now with that being said I do not know anyone personally who will be bidding on this unique coin but it will be fun to watch.

Not only this Half Dime, but also the unique 1870-S Three Dollar gold coin will also hit the auction block in January. Now is the time to complete your set of Three Dollar gold coins.

Again, I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Doug Nyholm

Got Stamps?

Old letters – Old postcards?

Do you have an old collection or accumulation of stuff that you don't know what to do with? ***I can help!*** Call me to discuss what items you have. Whether you just want to know what the value is or if you want to sell them. We can discuss what options you have to dispose of your items or I can give you a free verbal appraisal based on the current market value. Either way you will know what you have and can then make intelligent decisions as to what to do with it. Give me a call. It will be worth your time.

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BUY—SELL—APPRAISE COINS & CURRENCY

UNS PLANNING MEETING / Jan 2

All current officers and board members as well as last years outgoing persons are invited. For you outgoing persons please bring any information or documentation you have to pass it on to our new officers.

This is plenty of parking and we would like all that can attend to please come and help plan our activities for 2023.

The UNS 2023 Planning meeting is scheduled for Monday January 2nd 2023. The location will again be at Doug Nyholm's home in Sandy which is located at 2336 E. Autumn Ridge Dr. Light refreshments will be served as well as a large screen TV for any football bowl game news.

The Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM sharp.

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UNS Membership Application

Application for membership in the "Utah Numismatic Society"

P.O. Box 65054, Salt Lake City, UT 84165

Name(s) of Applicants:_____

Address:_____

E-Mail:_____

Phone Number:_____

Signature:_____

ANNUAL DUES

$30 Family # $20 Adult # $5 Junior / Under 18 #

By signing this application I acknowledge that I have never been convicted of a felony.

Where & When we meet:

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Columbus Center / 2530 South 500 East, SLC, UT 84115

The Utah Numismatic Society is now enjoying its 70th year serving collectors in Utah. We sponsor an annual coin show held in Sandy which you may have attended. Our monthly meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday in Salt Lake City. We have many knowledgeable, as well as novice and beginning collectors, in attendance every month.

Our monthly publication entitled "The Mint Master" contains interesting reading featuring articles such as the 'Counterfeit Corner,' 'Book Reviews,' 'Young Numismatists,' as well as many other numismatic news-worthy columns.

Our meetings include Bourse, Auctions, expert speakers as well as our annual "Youth Night" and "Summer Picnic."

We invite you to attend one of our meetings held at the -

Columbus Center, 2530 S. 500 E., Salt Lake City.

Quiz Answers

1. **D**
2. **A**
3. **B**
4. **A**
5. **C**
6. **B**
7. **D**